

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT

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1. Salzwedel (Y-27): Only minor garrison changes took place in Salzwedel during the spring of 1948. The Kaiserhof Hotel was occupied during April by thirty riflemen who had come from Gardelegen to be placed at the disposal of the Salzwedel komendatura. The Deutscher Hof Hotel is occupied by Red Army men in unknown strength; motion picture shows for soldiers in Salzwedel are, however, only attended on the average by forty to sixty men. The German Grenzpolizei headquarters moved during April from the Altperverstrasse to the Bahnhof Hotel.
2. On 25 March 1948, a party of Red Army officers began visiting frontier villages in Kreis Salzwedel upon instructions from the Army headquarters in Magdeburg for the purpose of detailing new frontier guard duties. The party was headed by a major general and consisted, in addition, of a colonel, four lieutenant colonels, and several junior officers.
3. In each village the party called on the local Bürgermeister and made a tour of the village with him in order to select houses for requisitioning. Houses of SED members were carefully exempted from seizure. On or about 1 April, soldiers arrived to take up quarters in these villages. In each community the detachment consisted of one officer and ten to twenty men equipped with one or two LMG's. The troops belonged to units stationed in Gardelegen and were unusually well-disciplined. They had apparently received strict orders to maintain good relations with the local German population.
4. Simultaneously with the arrival of Red Army troops, the German Grenzpolizei detachments were considerably strengthened. Each frontier village received reinforcements of about twenty men. The reinforcements for Kreis Salzwedel came mainly from Magdeburg, Dessau, and Halle. Their transfer to the demarcation line took place suddenly and without previous warning. On 10 April the German police were informed that they would soon have to prepare for a frontier inspection by the SIA political officer, Colonel Tulpanov.

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5. Magdeburg (Y-60): The Magdeburg garrison had, as of 10 April 1948, decreased by three quarters since December 1947. The majority of the troops went to the Altengrabow maneuver area, but some returned east via Berlin. A new commanding general for troops in the Magdeburg area, a Lieutenant General Dosek (phonetic), was appointed during March.
6. Stendal (Y-85): The paratroop barracks in Stendal have been dismantled. The Tauenzien barracks were occupied by a motorized infantry unit during April 1948. The barrack blocks, which offer accommodations for three companies each, appeared to be fully occupied. The 93-er Kaserne on the Stendal-Salzwedel road was believed to be occupied during April by a regiment of infantry, a battalion of engineers, and a signal corps company. The latter personnel served a signal center on the Thomas Münzerstrasse. Tank, artillery, and engineer officers live in the vicinity of the center; they claim that their regiments are encamped in the woods immediately north-east of the town.
7. Oschersleben (D-48): Aside from local komandatura guards, there were no concentrations of Red Army troops in Kreis Oschersleben during April 1948. As of 23 April, the Kreis commandant was Lieutenant Colonel Ivanov; his deputy was Lieutenant Colonel Konstronsnov. Another lieutenant colonel, name unknown, supervised political and press affairs in Oschersleben. The MVD Kreis Group at Oschersleben numbered some three officers and 25 men. MVD headquarters are at Goethestrasse 24; billets are in the Windhorststrasse. The name of the commanding officer is unknown, but the second in command was Senior Lieutenant Petrov.

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